

Message Text

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11

ORIGIN NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 H-03 SAB-01 PCH-02

PRS-01 SS-20 NSC-10 EB-11 USIA-15 PA-04 RSC-01 /131 R

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H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

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R 311945Z JAN 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
USINT DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING
JANUARY 31, 1974:

QUOTE: Q. LAST NIGHT THE PRESIDENT REFERRED TO A MEETING,
AN URGENT MEETING, HE CALLED IT, WHERE THE LIFTING OF THE
EMBARGO WOULD BE CONSIDERED. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT KNOW
IF THE PRESIDENT WAS REFERRING TO THE PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED
MEETING IN TRIPOLI, OR IS THERE SOME ADDITIONAL MEETING
LOOMING?

A. WELL, LET ME COMMENT ON THAT PARTICULAR PORTION OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT IN THIS WAY. THAT IS, THAT THAT
PARTICULAR TEXT, THAT LANGUAGE, WAS LANGUAGE WHICH WAS
GIVEN TO HIM BY THE LEADERS OF FRIENDLY MID EASTERN
COUNTRIES.

NOW, IN THEIR COMMUNICATION THEY DID NOT SAY WHETHER THERE
WOULD BE A SPECIAL MEETING EARLIER THAN THE PRESENTLY
SCHEDULED ONE ON THE 14TH, OR EXACTLY HOW THEY WOULD PROCEED,
BEYOND THE INFORMATION -- THE COMMUNICATIONS TO THE PRESI-
DENT.

WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT CONSULTATIONS AMONG THE ARAB
LEADERS ARE UNDER WAY. AND WE CANNOT SAY, NATURALLY,
THEREFORE, WHETHER THE MATTER WILL BE TAKEN UP ON THE 14TH
OR SOONER.

Q. I HAVE JUST COME FROM CAPITOL HILL. THE SECRETARY OF
STATE HAS JUST PUBLICLY SAID, AND I BELIEVE I AM QUOTING
HIM ACCURATELY -- HE WAS ASKED ABOUT THE OIL EMBARGO,
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WOULD IT BE TAKEN UP AT THE TRIPOLI MEETING, AND HE SAID,
"OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THIS WOULD BE THE PRINCIPAL
ITEM ON THE AGENDA." SOMEONE SAID, "WELL, WHAT'S NEWS
ABOUT THAT?" AND HE SAID, "WHAT IS NEWS IS THAT THE LIFT-
ING OF THE EMBARGO WILL BE RECOMMENDED BY SEVERAL OF THE
OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES." NOW, THE REFERENCE WAS TO THE
FEBRUARY 14 MEETING IN TRIPOLI. THERE WAS NO AMBIGUITY
ABOUT IT AT ALL.

A. TED, I DON'T SEE ANY INCONSISTENCY WITH WHAT I AM JUST SAYING RIGHT NOW. I DIDN'T SAY THAT THEY WOULDN'T DO IT ON THE 14TH. I JUST DO NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT CAN BE HELD ON SOME OTHER DATE. IF YOU WILL LOOK AT YOUR NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, YOU WILL FIND THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF KUWAIT IS REFERRING TO SOMETHING I THINK ON THE 12TH.

Q. REGARDING WHAT THE SECRETARY WAS REPORTED BY TED TO HAVE SAID, DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING MORE ABOUT THIS -- ABOUT SEVERAL OIL PRODUCERS WOULD RECOMMEND THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO AT THIS MEETING?

A. I CAN'T GO INTO DETAILS, BUT WHEN YOU SAY THAT YOU ARE EXPECTING THE KIND OF ACTION WHICH I HAVE JUST DESCRIBED FROM FRIENDLY ARAB LEADERS -- THIS IS THE EXACT PHRASE HERE -- "MY PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH FRIENDLY LEADERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. . ." -- YOU ANTICIPATE THAT FRIENDLY ARAB LEADERS WILL PURSUE THE EXACT LINE THAT TED HAS REPORTED. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED SANAA.

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